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Red Spies Infest W. EXCEP

East German Communists Alone Year for Subversion; Blackmail Us



By JOHN O. KOEHLER

Editor's Note—In number of spies per capita, West Germany has a score higher than any country in the world. Arrests for espionage run into the hundreds every month. What the Communists find out about western planning seldom is earth-shaking, but they collect so much information 18,500 people are kept busy figuring out what it means.

Bonn, Germany—As West Germany is fighting off the massive Communist espionage attack ever launched against a single country.

Interior Minister Gerhard Schroeder said recently that an estimated 16,000 agents working for the East bloc intelligence services in West Germany.

Despite many obstacles, Bonn government agents manage to uncover about 200 agents a month. Still, for every lost spy the Communists seem to have another ready to take his place.

High-ranking officials of Red intelligence services, who defected to the West, have reported that about 18,500 persons are full-time employees of Soviet, East German, Polish, Czechoslovakian, Hungarian and Bulgarian spy organizations in East Germany, mostly stationed in or around East Berlin. It is the base of operations against West Germany.

The East German Communists alone spend 125 million dollars a year on espionage and

subversive operations against West Germany. Mr. Schroeder said.

Bonn Employs 3,000

To combat this operation, the Bonn government employs just over 3,000 counter intelligence agents and office personnel. They operate on an annual budget of 17.5 million dollars.

Officials are reluctant to release precise annual statistics but in the last eight years have recruited more than 100,000 persons on espionage charges. In 1959, 10,000 individuals were assigned to work on assignments which would not be carried out.

This is a staggering figure compared to the 17 spy centers in the United States, which employed 11,000 agents in the last 11 years. At least four of the American

the Rosenberg couple, Harry Gold and David Greenglass, may have been more dangerous than all of the Red agents in Germany put together. They betrayed atom bomb secrets.

West Germany does not have American nuclear secrets, but there have been a few agents who have done considerable damage.

According to security officials the most dangerous was Alfred Frenzel, 61, socialist member of the defense committee of the Bundestag (Parliament) from 1953 until his arrest last fall.

Gets 15 Years

Frenzel, sentenced to 15 years at hard labor earlier this year, supplied the Czechoslovakian intelligence service with West Ger-

many's defense plans for 1961 and betrayed the outlines of the Atlantic Alliance's defense requirements until 1963. The latter information included projected troop strength, equipment, ammunition and fuel requirements for the 15 NATO countries.

Another dangerous traitor, and most embarrassing to the government, was Gerd John, West German security chief, who left the government's employ in 1958 and set up a spy office in the intelligence service in West Germany.

After four years as head of the intelligence service in Bonn, during which he was named chief of the West German intelligence office in Bonn, he was transferred to East Germany in 1961. He gave the Communists important intelligence secrets, including names of agents operating behind the Iron Curtain.

John remained in East Germany for 17 months and then redefected to the West. After a military trial, during which he claimed he was drugged and held against his will in East Germany, John was sentenced to four years at hard labor. He served barely half of his sentence.

Other Serious Cases

There were perhaps another half dozen serious cases but the overwhelming majority of agents are "little operators." Red spy recruiters have relatively easy job finding prospects in this divided nation. One-fifth of West Germany's population are expellees and refugees from German-speaking areas now dominated by communists.

Perhaps every third West German has relatives in Communist East Germany.

The German agent spying on his own country needs no elaborate disguise and before the Communists closed the border around Berlin a great many agents slipped in with the river and most embarrassing to the government.

West German security chiefs say the intelligence service in West Germany is doing a good job. After four years as head of the intelligence service in Bonn, during which he was named chief of the West German intelligence office in Bonn, he was transferred to East Germany in 1961. He gave the Communists important intelligence secrets, including names of agents operating behind the Iron Curtain.

Guided by Soviet intelligence agencies, the Communist German apparatus are few for state security (KGB former MVD) and the defense intelligence branch (GRU). The KGB in East Germany with headquarters in a four-story hospital at the maximum security compound in the East Berlin suburb of Karlshorst, has a staff of about 900.

The GRU headquarters is located at the Germany headquarters of the Soviet army in Wuensdorf near Berlin. About 150 GRU officers are reportedly attached to the KGB headquarters as liaison personnel. The East German ministry for state security is headed by a German-speaking communist, now dominated by communists.